ON LAKE MICHIGAN

Shorelines for Coastal Coordination

INDIANA

Summer 1999

Record steelhead taken in Trail Creek; Progeny of the salmonid stocking program

Evan Nicholson of Bridgman, Michigan broke a nine-year Indiana record when he landed a 26.62-pound Skamania strain steelhead trout on June 23. The record steelhead measured 38 inches in length with a girth of 23 inches. Trail Creek, a LaPorte County tributary of Lake Michigan, offered up the record fish to the fly-casting angler. Nicholson's record steelhead took a simple red yarn fly, tied to resemble egg baits.

Native stocks of Lake trout once comprised a great resource in Lake Michigan. Through intense commercial fishing in the 1940s and 1950s, plus predation by the sea lamprey [introduced into the Great Lakes via the construction of the Welland Canal], lake trout were nearly exterminated from Lake Michigan. In addition, alewives, an exotic species unintentionally introduced in 1949 from the Atlantic, depleted food sources for themselves and other species in the lake. These disruptions in the native fish community and food web contributed to the decline of important Great Lakes commercial and sport fisheries.

Rehabilitation of the Lake Michigan fishery began in 1960 with the extension of the sea lamprey control program to Lake Michigan, plus plantings of lake trout and the introduction of coho salmon, chinook salmon, brown trout and steelhead trout. The extensive sea lamprey program has reduced a major threat making the rehabilitation of the native lake trout more feasible. Of the five major salmonids stocked, the lake trout was released with the main objective being rehabilitation. The others were stocked in order to re-

On Shore for this issue:

duce an overabundance of alewives and to provide more angling opportunities. According to Randy Lang, IDNR Fisheries Biologist, with the introduction of the Pacific Northwest salmonids (coho, chinook, and steelhead), "a spectacular sport fishery evolved, and many negative impacts of the alewife have been minimized."

In 1971, Indiana began a steelhead stocking program. Eggs were imported from the Skamania State Fish Hatchery, Wahougal, Washington. The eggs were the product of a successful "high grade" summer run steelhead program designed to produce an adult capable of spawning earlier than the "standard" summer run steelhead. According to John Kubisiak, IDNR Lake Michigan Fisheries Biologist, "prior to the 'high grade' program, many hatchery fish missed the normal April and May smoltification period and remained in the stream." IDNR stocks summer run steelhead in late March and winter run steelhead in December, which in turn provides a year-round fishery in Lake Michigan.

Steelhead trout are anadromous-which means they swim upstream to spawn, though they spend most of their lives in the ocean. They adapt well to freshwater, spending their adult lives in the Great Lakes in place of their native ocean. When they become sexually mature, they migrate to the stream where they were stocked in order to spawn. Unlike salmon, steelhead may spawn more than once, and fish over 28 inches are almost always repeat spawners.

The steelhead trout is a rainbow trout that has spent a part of its life in the sea. There are no major physical differences between rainbow and steelhead trout; however, the nature of their differing lifestyles has resulted in subtle differences in color, shape, and general appearance. Steelhead possess the well-known streamlined salmonid form, though body shape and coloration vary widely and reflect habitat, age, sex, and degree of maturity. The body shape may range from slender to thick. The back may shade from blue-green to olive. There is a reddish-pink band along each side about the midline that may range from faint to radiant. The lower sides are usually silver, fading to pure white beneath. Small black spots are present over the back above the lateral line, as well as on the upper fins and tail. In some locations, the black spots of adults may extend well below the lateral line and even cover the entire lower side.

Biologists from the IDNR Division of Fish and Wildlife report that this year's Skamania run appears to be strong and includes a fair number of large fish. The run began during the last week of May and will continue through August. Skamania are most readily caught during June-July and are available to shoreline, boat, and stream waters. They are spectacular fighters, jumping as much as ten to fifteen times often five to eight feet into the air. Skamania grow to larger sizes than the naturalized Great Lake winter run steelhead because they generally do not mature until the age of four or five. They often attain sizes in excess of fifteen pounds.

Closely coordinated and cooperative lakewide management programs allow the states to share a common interest and purpose for the decisions on Lake Michigan fisheries management. Lang said, "Some people have forgotten the degraded condition of the Lake Michigan fish community of four or five decades ago. Success by the resource agencies at improving water quality and solving other problems has created recreational and economic opportunities never realized before. Sometimes it helps to remember what problems and issues were faced by these agencies many years ago to appreciate what you have today."

With thousands of miles of fly fishing tributaries, the opportunities are many. Information and the location of public access sites are contained in the Division of Fish and Wildlife's 1999 Fishing Guide. The Fishing Guide is free and can be obtained at sporting goods retailers or by calling the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 317/232-4080. Information regarding all major and minor tributaries to the Great Lakes for steelhead, trout and salmon fly fishing can be found at http://www.steelheadsite.com/.

Visit our Lake Michigan homepage at : http:// www.dnr.state.in.us/ lakemich/index.htm

How to improve the air without really trying

By Barbara Waxman
Environmental Services Coordinator
Water Quality Management
Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Would you be willing to combine your errands into one trip to help contribute to cleaner air and less traffic congestion in Northwest Indiana? Trip chaining - or combining errands into one sensible trip - is just one of the many actions you can take, and probably already are taking that help improve the quality of our air.

Nationally, more than 25% of air pollution comes from on-road vehicle emissions. Although, cars are cleaner than ever before, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) believes it is important to highlight personal actions that can help reduce pollution and traffic congestion in the counties of Lake, Porter and LaPorte.

Lake and Porter Counties are nonattainment under the Clean Air Act for the pollutant ozone. When the U.S. EPA enacts more stringent requirements for this pollutant, it is anticipated that LaPorte County will also not meet the new standard. Ozone results in large part from the chemicals emitted by our cars and trucks.

According to Jim Ranfranz, Executive Director of NIRPC, "It is important that we realize how much our own travel choices affect air quality and traffic congestion. We can be part of the solution by easily taking a few steps that can help improve the air quality in Northwest Indiana. Every little bit helps if we all pitch in."

Consider these facts:

* When you first start your car after it has been sitting for more than an hour, it pollutes up to five times more than when the engine's warm. That's why combining errands into one sensible trip is more efficient and reduces air pollution.

* A poorly maintained or malfunctioning car can release as much as 100 times the pollution of a well-maintained car. Regular car maintenance will ensure that your car runs as efficiently as it can, and it prevents potential breakdowns.

* In hot weather, gasoline vapors escape during refueling and, mixed with sunshine and heat, create ozone. By refueling your car's gas tank during cooler periods of the day and in the evening, you can help to reduce air pollution.

These and other steps, such as sharing rides or taking public transportation, if possible, and biking or walking for short trips, are actions many of us are already taking that can reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. These steps are easy and fit into busy schedules without major inconveniences.

Northwest Indiana is one of 14 demonstration communities selected by the federal government to conduct this public information campaign. This project will assess the effectiveness of the messages about travel choices, air quality and traffic congestion. Northwest Indiana citizens will be polled by telephone before and after the campaign to determine if the messages have increased public awareness of air quality issues.

Although the campaign has been launched locally, it is part of a national transportation and air quality initiative that is supported by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Northwest Indiana has been selected for this demonstration campaign because of NIRPC's commitment to informing the public about the connection between air quality and transportation and because the three county region is representative of many communities across the country.

Members of the Environmental Management Policy Committee are concerned about the environment and the quality of life in our region. They believe it is critically important to let the public know how they can make a difference, and that changes do not need to be drastic to make an impact. Under the policy committee's leadership, NIRPC staff have developed an aggressive multimedia air quality campaign consisting of outdoor advertising, brochures, television and radio public service announcements, newspaper public service announcements, an educational video and teacher workshops. Plans are also being developed for an annual Cleaner Air Day in Northwest Indiana.

The Environmental Management Policy Committee meets at NIRPC, 6100 Southport Road, Portage, on the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Members represent local government, universities and colleges, health care institutions, industry and business, environmental organizations, transportation providers, utilities, and citizen and community organizations. Observers are always welcome. Call or E-mail NIRPC to be placed on the mailing list to receive a copy of the meeting notice/agenda.

For further information about "It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air" in North-

west Indiana, call Reggie Korthals, NIRPC Environmental Education Specialist, at (219) 763-6060; (219) 769-6060; and from LaPorte County, (800) 709-6060. Reggie will also schedule a presentation about air quality for your organization or classroom.

For additional information, visit the NIRPC web site at www.nirpc.org.

City of Whiting awarded Tree City USA

TREE CITY USA.

On May 28, 1999, Indiana State Forester Burnell Fischer presented Whiting with the 1998 Tree City USA Award during the city's Arbor Day Celebration. Mayor Robert J. Bercik opened the celebration and welcomed over 100 attendees.

Tree City USA, an Arbor Day Foundation program, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs. To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by The National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

The Living Memorial Tree Planting Program that is sponsored by the Baran Funeral Home enhances Whiting's Arbor Day Celebration. According to Martin Dybel, Baran Funeral Home, "when a hardwood casket is used, we plant a tree as a living memorial for the deceased." Dybel explained the tree planting "is symbolic of replacing the tree that was used to make the casket." This year 21 Angel Crabapples were planted in Whiting Park as living memorials. Each tree has an identification tag with the name of the individual for whom the tree was planted. Whiting also sponsored an additional nine Living Memorial Angel Crabapples. There are over 100 memorial trees within Whiting Park. "Family members decorate the trees for the holidays," says Connie Finnegan, member of the Whiting Tree Board. "Right now there are small American flags and red, white and blue flowers around the trees."

According to Dan Botich, Whiting City Planner, "the Living Memorial Tree Planting Program provides citizens with ownership in Whiting Park. Although it is a public park, there is community commitment. It enhances the city by providing community- bringing family together." Botich described Whiting Park as a place of reflection, a place "where you are not surrounded by monuments of what was, but by trees of what will be."

"The planting efforts throughout Whiting have increased individual and corporate awareness, which is spreading to the surrounding areas," said Pam Louks, Community Outreach Coordinator for IDNR's Urban Forestry Program. Each year during Arbor Day, the "Johnny Appleseed Award" is presented to a Whiting individual, group, or company that has demonstrated outstanding resource stewardship. BP/Amoco was the recipient of this year's award. BP/Amoco donated trees for several city projects, as well as, landscaping its own property with trees and shrubbery. BP/Amoco "has landscaped so wonderfully- an oil refinery is not easy to beautify," said Finnegan.

Louks coordinates with communities wishing to establish an urban forestry program. The process may involve inventories (determining existing species and vacant space); developing management plans; passing enforceable public tree ordinances; and enhancing community awareness of the value of trees. These results are achieved through Arbor Day celebrations, classroom study, projects, literature, and workshops. Botich said Mayor Bercik "is very supportive of the Whiting Tree Board and the efforts of the Urban Forestry Program."

The Urban Forestry Program administers several matching grant programs supportive of urban trees and forests in Indiana communities. The US Forest Service provides this federal funding on an annual basis. For more information regarding the Urban Forestry Program contact Pam Louks at 317/582-2410.

Other Northwest Indiana 1998 Tree City USA recipients were Chesterton, Hammond, Munster, and Gary. Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) received the 1998 Tree Line USA Award. Tree Line USA recognizes utilities following practices that protect and enhance America's urban forests.

Tree City USA Standards

*** <u>A Tree Board or Department</u> An entity must be legally responsible for the care and management of the community's trees. This may be a professional forester or arborist, an entire forestry department, or a volunteer tree board.**

*** <u>A Community Tree Ordinance</u> The tree ordinance must designate the establishment of a tree board or forestry department and give this body the responsibility for writing and implementing an annual community forestry work plan.**

*** <u>A Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least $2 Per Capita</u> Evidence is required that the community has established a community forestry program that is supported by an annual budget.**

*** <u>An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation</u> An Arbor Day celebration can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observation. It can be a simple tree planting event or an award ceremony that honors leading tree planters.**

Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and tree care. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in the state of Nebraska in 1872, in response to a state proclamation urging settlers and homesteaders to plant trees that would provide shade, shelter, fruit, fuel, and beauty for residents of the largely treeless plains. On that first Arbor Day, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska's communities and on its farms.

The Arbor Day idea was promoted by J. Sterling Morton, editor of the Nebraska City News, who later helped the idea spread to neighboring states and eventually to all of the United States and many other nations. Morton stated, "Each generation takes the Earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed."

For more information on The National Arbor Day Foundation and Tree City USA see: http://www.arborday.org/

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Toxic pollutants top priority of the Lake Michigan LaMP

By Kathy Luther
Lake Michigan LaMP Coordinator
IDEM Northwest Office

The Great Lakes are an essential yet fragile resource for the international community. The introduction of pollutants, in conjunction with the loss of important habitat and other factors, has degraded the ability of the Great Lakes ecosystem to support healthy, diverse biological communities. To address this issue, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada, first signed in 1972 and renewed in 1978, expresses the commitment of each country to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

The Water Quality Agreement calls for the development of a Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) for each of the Great Lakes. A LaMP is designed to consist of a phased and iterative process to identify problems that result in beneficial use impairments, identify stressors to the ecosystem, and select remedial measures. According to the Agreement, the purpose of each LaMP is to reduce loadings of Critical Pollutants in order to restore beneficial uses. The original intent was for LaMPs to be developed in three separate stages. The first stage would describe the current status of the ecosystem and its impairments. A second stage would present the causes, sources, and stressors that result in impairments. The final stage would present a plan to correct these impairments, and protect and manage the resource to prevent any future impairments.

The original focus of LaMP was toxic pollution. More recently it was realized that a broader ecosytem approach is necessary in order to accomplish the purpose of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. This leads to LaMPs which must consider a wide range of factors potentially causing problems in the lake. In addition to chemical pollutants, physical changes such as habitat loss and biological changes such as aquatic nuisance species are all factors contributing to impairments in Lake Michigan. The ecosystem approach adds to the complexity of planning for the restoration; however, it also significantly expands the potential realm of partners who can be responsible for action.

The Lake Michigan basin is a large and complex ecosystem. Because of this, it would be impossible for one agency or any one state to properly protect and manage it. The Lakewide Management Plan and Process provides a framework for the many partners involved with the Lake to work together and be more effective stewards of this great natural resource. Currently the Lake Michigan LaMP Process has evolved into a committee structure to expand participation opportunities for partners.

The LaMP process is overseen by a Management Committee, which consists of representatives of a number of federal, state, and tribal agencies. (See Figure 1.) The agencies represented on the Management Committee commit staff to participate in a Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). The Lake Michigan TCC is composed of staff members from EPA Region 5, Illinois EPA, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Wisconsin DNR, Michigan DEQ, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Michigan Committee, and several tribal agencies in the basin.

The success of the LaMP program rests in the participation of a number of agencies as well as members of the public. The Lake Michigan Forum is the public advisory committee for the LaMP. Its members consist of representatives of each of the ten Lake Michigan Areas of Concern and other groups including industry, citizen groups, and lo-

cal governments. The Forum participates actively in LaMP discussions and committee work as well as developing their own projects.

The Lake Michigan Management Committee has approved goals, subgoals and scope for an ecosystem plan for the final Stage I LaMP. Figure 2 details the goals currently being developed for the Lake Michigan LaMP. These have been developed by the Lake Michigan TCC and the Lake Michigan Forum.

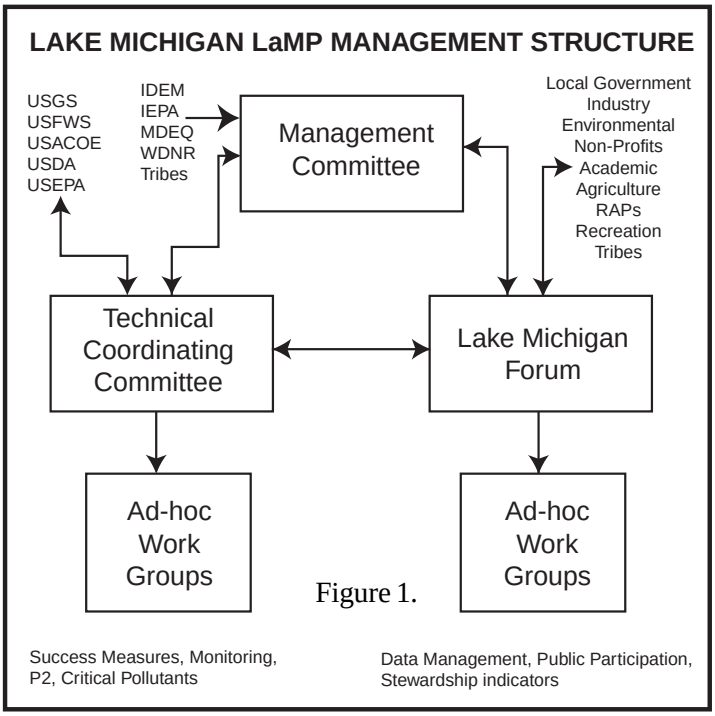

Figure 1.

In order to actually write the LaMP, develop strategies and implement activities to meet these goals, members of the TCC and Forum have organized themselves into working committees to address specific issues based on their interests and expertise. The Habitat Committee, Human Health Committee, Toxics Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Indicator Committee are all coordinated by a Steering Committee. Each committee has the responsibility of reaching outside the LaMP group to create a network of experts that can assist with their technical work.

The expansion of the Lake Michigan and other LaMPs to broad ecosystem plans has resulted in significant delays in their completion. In the past, the Lake Michigan LaMP has had the most difficulty reorganizing and moving forward to address this broader scope of issues. Recently frustration over these delays lead most of the directors of the US EPA Region 5 state environmental agencies to challenge those involved in producing the LaMPs to complete all LaMP stages by April 2000. To meet this challenge, the Lake Michigan LaMP has proposed a schedule which could result in a draft available for review in late fall of 1999. The time line proposed has the LaMP Document Comment Period and public meetings occurring in January and February of 2000.

In addition to LaMPs, there are a number of other regulatory and voluntary programs the United States is currently implementing to prevent pollutants from being introduced, reduce pollutant loadings currently being discharged and remediate the adverse effects associated with past pollutant discharges to the Great Lakes System. Together, these present an integrated and comprehensive approach to protecting and restoring the Great Lakes system.

The Great Lakes Five Year Strategy commits the Federal, Tribal, and State agencies responsible for environmental protection in the Great Lakes to achieving specific environmental goals. The Strategy has three primary components: reducing and virtually eliminating toxic pollutants; protecting and restoring habitat; and protecting the health of all Great Lakes species. In the area of toxics reduction, the Strategy calls for "...[reducing] the level of toxic substances in the Great Lakes system with an emphasis on persistent toxic substances, so that all organisms are adequately protected and toxic substances are virtually eliminated from the Great Lakes ecosystem." The Lake Michigan LaMP is one piece of the Five Year Strategy's toxics reduction component.

Figure 2. Goals of the Lake Michigan LaMP

1. To reduce both the ambient concentrations of toxic pollutants and the mass loadings of toxic pollutants from all sources, in order to restore the beneficial uses of Lake Michigan, thereby protecting and restoring the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of Lake Michigan.

2. To prevent any further degradation of the Lake Michigan System from the release of toxic pollutants, and to avoid the need for remedial actions in the future.

3. To be a mechanism of progress for the Lake Michigan System towards the Agreement's goal of virtually eliminating the discharge of persistent, bioaccumulative toxic pollutants throughout the Great Lakes System.

4. To implement the requirements of the Clean Water Act and thereby achieve the goals and objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

For more information about the Lake Michigan LaMP, see the Lake Michigan Forum at http://www.lkmichiganforum.org.

Peregrine falcons make Northwest Indiana home

By Kathy Quimbach
IDNR Information Specialist

Peregrine falcon re-introductions have made this endangered bird an increasingly familiar sight in urban and industrial areas throughout the country. Indiana is no exception. The Department of Natural Resources' peregrine falcon re-introduction project, conducted from 1991-1994, released 60 young birds in four Indiana cities: Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend and Evansville. Urban areas were chosen as release sites

due to the similarity of skyscrapers to the peregrine's natural cliffside habitat and the variety of medium-sized birds available as prey. Previous releases in other states showed that these birds adapted well to urban life.

The Lake Michigan shoreline has been a popular site for peregrine nesting due in part to the potential nesting areas offered by tall structures associated with steel manufacture and energy production. Biologists from the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife have worked closely with managers at these and other locations to provide nest boxes for peregrines and to manage the areas once pairs are nesting.

The partnerships developed between northwest Indiana industry and the DNR have allowed the peregrines to thrive in that area. Five of this year's nesting pairs are along Lake Michigan: one each at U.S. Steel in Gary, Inland Steel in East Chicago, Bailly Power Plant in Burns Harbor, NIPSCO Power Plant in Michigan City and the Cline Avenue bridge in East Chicago. The falcon pair at the Bailly Power Plant have been known to also attempt nesting at Bethlehem Steel in Porter County.

Industry personnel have granted permission for DNR biologists to erect peregrine nesting boxes in appropriate locations and provide access to those sites. Site managers often assist in monitoring activity around peregrine nesting areas and in decreasing the amount of disturbance experienced by the resident falcons. Employees provide valuable life history information while watching the falcons nest and by reporting on the fledging progress of each year's young.

Indiana's recent resurgence of peregrine nesting began in 1989, with the discovery of a nest on a ledge under an East Chicago expressway. Currently, this is the oldest continual nest site in Indiana with a total of 31 chicks fledged from there since 1989. Indiana's second nest site was found in 1990 at U.S. Steel in Gary. Successful nesting in each successive year at this site has contributed more than 24 young falcons to the population. The other three nesting pairs along Lake Michigan were confirmed in 1996 and nesting attempts have occurred every year. To date, a total of 73 young birds have been born in northwestern Indiana. Factoring in average mortality for the first year, Northwest Indiana has contributed at least 37 birds to the Midwest's adult population.

Of the remaining three peregrine falcon nesting territories for 1999, two are in urban settings, Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, and one is at the NIPSCO Schahfer Plant in Jasper County. This year saw a state record in reproduction with seven successful nests producing 24 young.

Indiana's efforts, combined with programs in neighboring states, were initiated in an attempt to re-establish peregrine falcon nesting pairs throughout the region. Through continued partnerships between the DNR and urban business and industry, the peregrine falcon has a bright future in Indiana. For more information, call Kathy Quimbach at 317/232-4080.

40th Anniversary of St. Lawrence Seaway celebrated at Port of Indiana

On June 26, 1959, Prince Phillip and Queen Elizabeth II joined President and Mrs. Eisenhower at Navy Pier in Chicago for the St. Lawrence Seaway dedication. Forty years later, the anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway was observed at the Port of Indiana.

On May 5, 1999, Peter McCarthy, Director of the Port, and W. Ken Massengill, Chairman of the Indiana Port Commission, welcomed guests to the cruise ship, Spirit of Chicago. They stressed the cooperative spirit among the private sector and governmental entities that have made the seaway and the port successful. Massengill reflected the Port of Indiana "in the last ten years, . . . has meant 4,000 jobs to Northwest Indiana." As noted by Mark Savinski of Congressman Peter Visclosky's office, "Everyone pulling together has made [the Port] a success." Frank Martin, Executive Director of the Indiana Port Commission, remarked that "this port is one of the most viable" on the Great Lakes.

The featured speaker for the celebration was Albert Jacquez, recently appointed Administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. The SLSDC and Canada's St. Lawrence Seaway Authority jointly operate the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System. This 2,300-mile stretch of water encompasses the St. Lawrence River and the five Great Lakes. It extends from the Gulf of St. Lawrence at the Atlantic Ocean to the western end of Lake Superior, and carries ships between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes through a series of locks and dams.

During the June 5 anniversary celebration, Jacquez observed, "There are 16 ports on the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes system." He said the economic impact of the Great Lakes is often underestimated. "One in every four industrial jobs [in the United States] is in a state that borders the Great Lakes."

Jacquez outlined the three primary "missions" of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. (1) Safety. For example, the SLSDC does "joint inspections for every ship that enters the Great Lakes system." (2) Reliability. Ships traverse the seaway "with very little down time." He noted that "last year we had a 97% reliability factor." (3) Economic Development and International Trade. The Seaway, he said, is responsible for 50,000 jobs and a $2 billion impact "in economic development."

Lake Michigan Coastal "Club" improves communication

The diversity of the Lake Michigan coastal area prompted the Indiana Natural Resources Commission to pass a resolution calling the Department of Natural Resources to "actively pursue improved communication and coordination within the agency and with other state, federal, and Northwest Indiana agencies and governmental units." See Resolution (full text) at: www.state.in.us/dnr/lakemich/resoluti.htm.

To implement this resolution, DNR's Coastal Coordination Program formed a group that has been meeting monthly since 1996. The group is commonly called the "Lake Michigan Coastal Club." The Club provides a forum through which DNR divisions and other agencies can discuss activities of mutual interest. Valuable input is received for on-going projects and for new initiatives. Agencies that regularly participate in the Club are DNR, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the Natural Resources Commission.

Kathy Luther, from IDEM's Gary Office and Coordinator for the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP), said, "Being invited to participate in the Coastal Club has been a big help to me. I am much better aware of the activities and efforts DNR makes for Lake Michigan. As I work for IDEM on the LaMP, this enables me to present a more complete picture of what Indiana is doing on the lake, not just IDEM. I also think that it enhances coordination between our agencies, which hopefully can eventually spread beyond the coastal areas into other aspects of our work." For more information on LaMP see *(Toxic pollutants top priority of the Lake Michigan LaMP,)* this issue.

The Lake Michigan Coastal Coordination Program is an effort by the State of Indiana to improve communications and cooperation among the agencies who participate in activities in the Lake Michigan coastal region. See http://www.dnr.state.in.us/lakemich/index.htm

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